

most honourable. Degrees and diplomas easily gained would be valueless, had not the recipient the support of his trade as an apothecary to maintain his practice with the public; but even thus it scarcely serves his purpose. There is little danger, therefore, that when the highest and the lowest examining bodies are placed on the same level, the lowest will be sought for in preference to the highest. Mr. Cowper's Bill permits the future student in medicine to select any school he pleases, to submit to any examination he likes, and to present the result to the Council for approval. If the course he has pursued accords with the rules and regulations which it will be their duty to lay down, his name is registered. All must comply with these regulations. The great majority will seek the most honourable examinations: a few, however, may present a degree or diploma too easily obtained. It is the duty of the Council to inquire into and to refuse such degrees or diplomas. Mr. Cowper's measure is calculated to promote the most open competition in medical education, to check all attempts at fraud, and to secure to every practitioner whose education they have found competent the most perfect right to practise where he pleases. The tendency, therefore, is to elevate, not to depress, the present level of our profession; and, if the dead weight of a trade were removed from it, its rise would be more rapid. If the physician were entitled, when necessary, to recover charges solely for his advice, or the surgeon for his operations and treatment, without any power to recover costs for medicines, or splints, or bandages, the great cause of the present depressed level of our profession would be removed; but then it would be necessary to prevent the chemist and druggist from selling his own pills and mixtures. The separation between the profession and the trade should be complete. New questions would spring up, and new contests entered upon—further impediments to medical reform.

It is most desirable that the first step should at least now be taken, and further improvements left for the future; but if Mr. Cowper's attempt to reconcile contending interests fail, and Mr. Headlam's and Lord Elcho's Bills are left to fight it out, medical reform expires from mere exhaustion; and the only record that is left is "Representation", "Registration", "Reciprocity", engraved on its tombstone. I am, etc., M.D.

London, April 1858.

#### POOR-LAW MEDICAL REFORM.

LETTER FROM RICHARD GRIFFIN, Esq.

SIR,—I shall feel obliged by the insertion in your JOURNAL of the annexed correspondence; and also, if you will allow me space, to inform the Poor-Law Medical Officers that I shall be happy to meet, at the Poor-Law Board, Whitehall, on Friday, May 7th, at 12 o'clock at noon, those who may wish to attend as part of the deputation. It is very desirable to have the countenance of some of the members of the House of Commons. I therefore beg all the medical men who have influence with their representatives will ask them to attend; that by their presence, at least, they may testify their willingness to see the position of the Poor-Law Medical Officers improved. I have reason to believe the Poor-Law Board are not insensible to the hardships we endure, and that the deputation will pave the way for changes of great importance. I trust those gentlemen who have not already sent in their petitions to the House of Commons and Poor-Law Board, will do so without further delay.

Since the issue of the pamphlet, on March 20th, nearly two hundred gentlemen have sent me their subscriptions—of these, many are new subscribers; I have, therefore, a small surplus on hand, but not sufficient for any emergency—for which we ought to be prepared. I trust those gentlemen who have not repeated their donations will bear in mind that an affair of this magnitude cannot be carried on by a single half-crown or five-shilling subscription; more especially, when it is recollected that one-third of the Union Medical Officers still keep aloof.

I am, etc.,

RICHARD GRIFFIN.

12, Royal Terrace, Weymouth, April 23rd, 1858.

"Poor-Law Medical Reform Association."

"12, Royal Terrace, Weymouth, April 16th, 1858.

"MY LORDS AND GENTLEMEN,—I am desired by the members of the Committee of this Association to ask the favour of your Honourable Board to permit a deputation from the Poor-Law Medical Officers to wait upon you, in order that they may state some of the grievances which so sorely oppress them, and which it is to be feared may, in some instances, render nugatory their best efforts for the good of the poor entrusted to their care. The Select Committee of the House of Commons, on Medical Relief, in 1854, recommended certain resolutions in favour of the Poor-Law Medical Officers which have not been carried out; and during the last two years, numerous petitions have been presented to the House of Commons, and also to your Honourable Board, praying for redress. The Poor-Law Medical Officers therefore feel the time has arrived when they may urge their claims for redress upon your Honourable Board, and, they trust without impropriety, request the favour of your definitely stating to the deputation if it is your intention to bring forward any measures for the relief of your medical officers.

"I have the honour to be,

"My Lords and Gentlemen, your obedient servant,

"RICHARD GRIFFIN, Chairman.

"The Poor-Law Board.

"P.S.—An early day in May, if convenient to the Poor-Law Board, would give time to inform the Union Medical Officers of the meeting."

"Poor-Law Board, Whitehall, April 21st, 1858.

"SIR,—I am directed by the Poor-Law Board to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 16th instant, in which you request that they will grant an interview to a deputation from the Poor-Law Medical Officers, who are desirous of stating to the Board some of the grievances under which they consider themselves to labour. I am directed to inform you, that the Board will be ready to receive the proposed deputation at their office, on Friday, the 7th of May, at 12 o'clock at noon, unless they should hear from you that the gentlemen who propose to attend, would wish a later day to be appointed.

"I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

"COURTENAY, Secretary.

"R. Griffin, Esq."

[We have been requested to state that a preliminary meeting of the Committee of the Poor-Law Medical Association will be held at the Ship Hotel, Charing Cross, at 11 A.M. on Friday, May 7th, in order to discuss what course of conduct should be adopted at the interview to be held at 12 with the President of the Poor-Law Board.]

#### ARSENIC AS A REMEDY FOR THE TSETSE BITE.

LETTER FROM DAVID LIVINGSTONE, LL.D.

SIR,—My time was so fully occupied, previous to my departure, in preparation for this expedition, that I could not find a moment's leisure to tell your correspondent Mr. James Braid that the very same idea with respect to the employment of arsenic in the disease which follows the bite of the tsetse occurred to my own mind about the year 1847 or 1848. A mare belonging to Mr. Gordon Cumming was brought to Kolobeng, after prolonged exposure to the bite of the insect; and, as it was unable to proceed on the journey southward, its owner left it to die. I gave it two grains of arsenic in a little barley daily for about a week, when an eruption resembling small-pox appeared. This induced me to discontinue the medicine; and, when the eruption disappeared, the animal's coat became so smooth and glossy that I imagined I had cured the complaint; for, after the bite is inflicted, the coat stares as if the animal were cold.

The mare, though apparently cured, continued lean. This I was rather glad of, as it is well known between the latitudes 20° and 27° S. that, when a horse becomes fat, he is almost sure to be cut off by a species of pneumonia commonly called the "horse-sickness". About two months after this apparent cure, the coat began to stare again; but this time it had remarkable dryness and harshness. I tried the arsenic again; but the mare became like a skeleton, and refused to touch the barley. When I tried to coax her, she turned her mild eye so imploringly, and so evidently meaning, "My dear fellow, I would rather die of the disease than of the doctor," that I could not force her. I got her lifted every morning to feed, and saw her at last perish through sheer exhaustion; and this was nearly six months after the bite was inflicted.

In my last trip from the Cape up to Linyanti, I was obliged to make some exertion, with but one companion, to get through a part of the country which was flooded by the river Chobe. My men allowed the cattle to stray one night during my absence, and ten died in consequence. Two had been bitten so slightly as not to die like the others. This was contrary to our previous experience; but when I returned from Loanda, two years afterwards, these two had remained like skeletons, though feeding in rich pasturage.

While thanking Mr. Braid for his hints, I may state that, though my hopes are not very sanguine, I still mean to try the remedy, if opportunity offers. Our instructions require us to examine the whole subject carefully. The result will be communicated to the Royal Society.

Your notice of Dr. Flint's reports, in the *Periscope* of February 13th, has suggested to my mind that I ought to draw the attention of my medical brethren to the central parts of the Cape Colony, and the interior generally as far as Kolobeng, as presenting a most desirable climate for those threatened with pulmonary complaints. On the coast, we do find consumption among the Hottentots; but even there the climate is not inferior to that of Madeira. Witness the medical reports of the army. The troops, who are placed generally in the least favourable localities, enjoy better health than at any other station except Corfu. The central and western districts; the mission stations Ebenezer, Scheit Fontein, Kurnman, Kolobeng, etc., which are quite removed from the moisture of the ocean, present just the opposite characteristics of climate to those which are believed to favour the development of scrofulous or tuberculous matter; and consumption is quite unknown. Then, as to exercise in the open air, in the way of hunting, botanising, geologising, riding, walking, or even sleeping, there is no country like it. I have always felt the difference sensibly as soon as I came near the sea. Nowhere else will either man or horse go through so much work with so little wear and tear of constitution. I have seen East Indian gentlemen spending fourteen to sixteen hours in the saddle, day after day, who could not have ridden half that time in India without being knocked up; and the only refreshment the horses got was a roll in the sand and the dry grass of the country. All the Indian invalids who came inland were benefited, and, more than that, became enamoured of the climate. It is a mistake to detain patients in the vicinity of the sea who are affected with phthisis. But the expense of going inland is a serious consideration. This would not weigh with patients in the better or higher ranks. A waggon complete, made in the Roggefelt, which would stand the drought, would cost £75; then £10 or £50 for oxen; a good tent, cooking utensils, and a stock of provisions, would require at least £100 more. But then you are independent. A good driver and leader would cost not more than £5 or £6 a month; and, if you follow the less frequented paths, you will find the Dutch farmers all very hospitable and friendly, and, by arrangements with them, you will be allowed to go where fancy may dictate. If I had any relative affected with lung-disease, I would unhesitatingly prescribe this course, as much more likely to arrest the disease than Madeira; and I am certain that, even though the result might be unfavourable, nowhere else would they have enjoyed so much pleasure. They would be under English law, and get religious sympathy in death and burial.

I am, etc., DAVID LIVINGSTONE.

Screw Steamer *Pearl*, at Sea off Senegal, Africa,  
March 22nd, 1858.

## Parliamentary Intelligence.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.—Wednesday, April 28th.

### MEDICAL CORPORATIONS.

Mr. DUNCOMBE obtained leave to bring in a Bill to define the rights of the members of the Medical Profession, and to protect the public from the abuses of Medical Corporations.

### PETITION.

Petitions in favour of Mr. Cowper's Medical Bill have been presented from members of the Salopian Medical Society residing and practising in Broseley, Dawley, Madeley, Wrockwardine Wood, and Upton Waters; from Ludlow, Church Stretton, Cleobury Mortimer, Dorrington, Clun, Clunbury, Streford; from the medical practitioners of Wem, Oswestry, Ellesmere and Ruyton-of-the-eleven-towns; also from Newtown and Welshpool.

Petitions for adequate remuneration to Poor-Law Medical Officers have been presented from the practitioners of Newington; Thomas Crowther, of Luddenden, near Halifax; from the medical officers of the following unions—Rye, Bridport, Bedford, Woburn, Newcastle Emllyn, Stow, Barnstaple, Shipston-on-Stour, Newmarket, Bromsgrove, Wakefield, Brentford, Sam-

ford, Helmsley, Kirkby Ravensworth, Easingwold, Godstone, Faversham, Cerne, Plomesgate, and Hereford; from the inhabitants of St. Mary, Newington; also from the Poor-Law Guardians of the Union of Clonakilty, county of Cork, praying that the law of Ireland with respect to the payment of medical officers may be assimilated to that of England.

## Medical News.

### BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, DEATHS, AND APPOINTMENTS.

In these lists, an asterisk is prefixed to the names of Members of the Association.

#### BIRTHS.

AMBLER. On April 22nd, at Hemel Hempstead, the wife of Edward H. Ambler, Esq., Surgeon, of a son.  
CRISP. On April 25th, at Lacock, Wilts, the wife of \*J. H. Crisp, Esq., Surgeon, of a daughter.  
LANKESTER. On April 25th, at 8, Savile Row, the wife of \*Edwin Lankester, M.D., F.R.S., of a daughter.  
REECE. On April 16th, at 45, Sussex Gardens, Hyde Park, the wife of \*George Reece, Esq., Surgeon, of a daughter.

#### MARRIAGES.

RYDING—BARFOOT. RYDING, Geo., M.D., to Henrietta Amelia, second daughter of Robert Senior Barfoot, Esq., late of Melbury, Dorset, at Lymington, on April 21st.  
WEBSTER—DURIE. WEBSTER, Stephen, Esq., eldest son of \*George Webster, M.D., of Dulwich, to Annie, second daughter of the late James Durie, Esq., at Fettercairn, Scotland, on April 22nd.

#### DEATHS.

GREGORY, William, M.D., Professor of Chemistry in the University of Edinburgh, on April 26th. Professor Gregory was one of a race of distinguished Scottish professors, his father having been the celebrated James Gregory, Professor of Medicine in the same University, and several of his ancestors having held a high place in the academic literature and science of Scotland. William Gregory was a very able and accomplished chemist. He was a favourite pupil of Liebig, and was the translator of some of his master's works from German into English, besides being the author of several treatises of great merit. He successively filled the Chairs of Chemistry in the Andersonian Institution, Glasgow; King's College, Aberdeen; and Edinburgh University—having been appointed to the latter 1843. He was very little past the prime of life; but had been long in a state of ill health, and during part of last session was unable to fulfil his duties personally. He leaves a widow, and a son named after his great master.

HARRISON, R., A.M., M.D., Professor of Anatomy in Trinity College, Dublin, of apoplexy, last week. For forty years, and up to the day of his death, Dr. Harrison was a popular and successful teacher of anatomy; at the same time discharging the duties of Hospital Surgeon, and as Secretary of the Dublin Society, lending his aid to promote science in general. As a public man, he was not indebted to any ostentatious display for the character he maintained or the position he occupied; these followed as a natural consequence of his pursuits and exertions: and in the arduous struggle which rivalry and competition entailed, he made no enemies. The institutions of Dublin have sustained a serious loss by the death of so active a member of the profession.

#### PASS LISTS.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS. MEMBERS admitted at the meeting of the Court of Examiners, on Friday, April 23rd, 1858:—

BRAITHWAITE, Robert, Whitby, Yorkshire  
BURLAND, Benjamin, Fairfield, near Liverpool  
BURY, John Walter, Wandsworth  
EASTON, John, Russell Square  
HOWITT, Francis, Newcastle  
HUGHES, James, Middlewich, Cheshire  
JENVEY, John Henry, Mortimer Street, Cavendish Square  
LEACH, Henry, Wisbeach, Cambridgeshire